

CLAIMS

The following invention is claimed:

1. An apparatus that optimizes the output speed and the replenishment of consumable media in a digital photographic kiosk, comprising:

5 a first output print device with consumable media;
a second output print device with consumable media;
a system controller that controls the utilization of consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device;

10 wherein said system controller initially causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said second output print device compared to said first output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media from said second output print device continues until the amount of consumable media of said first output print device is in a first preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said second
15 output print device;

when said first preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said first output print device and said second output print device until said second output print device
20 exhausts its consumable media;

upon replenishment of the consumable media of said second output print device, said system controller causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said second output print device compared to said first output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media continues until the amount of consumable media of said second output print device is in a second preferred ratio compared to the amount
25 of consumable media in said first output print device;

when said second preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said second output print device and said first output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said second output print device and said first output print device until said first output print device exhausts its consumable media;
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upon replenishment of the consumable media of said first output print device, said system controller causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said first output print device compared to said second output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media continues until the amount of consumable media of said first output print device is in said first preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said second output print device;

when said first preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said first output print device and said second output print device until said second output print device exhausts its consumable media; and

said system controller maintains continued utilization of consumable media in the above alternating process.

15 2. A system that optimizes the output speed and the replenishment of consumable media in a digital photographic kiosk, comprising:

a digital photographic kiosk that further comprises:

a first output print device with consumable media;

a second output print device with consumable media;

20 a system controller that controls the utilization of consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device;

wherein said system controller initially causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said second output print device compared to said first output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media from said second output print device continues until the amount of consumable media of said first output print device is in a first preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said second output print device;

when said first preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said first output print device and said second output print device until said second output print device exhausts its consumable media;

upon replenishment of the consumable media of said second output print device, said system controller causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said second output print device compared to said first output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media continues until the amount of consumable media of said second output print device is in a second preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said first output print device;

when said second preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said second output print device and said first output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said second output print device and said first output print device until said first output print device exhausts its consumable media;

upon replenishment of the consumable media of said first output print device, said system controller causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said first output print device compared to said second output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media continues until the amount of consumable media of said first output print device is in said first preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said second output print device;

when said first preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said first output print device and said second output print device until said second output print device exhausts its consumable media; and

said system controller maintains continued utilization of consumable media in the above alternating process.

3. A method to make a digital photographic kiosk that optimizes the output speed and the replenishment of consumable media, comprising:

providing a first output print device with consumable media;

providing a second output print device with consumable media;

providing a system controller that controls the utilization of consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device;

wherein said system controller initially causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said second output print device compared to said first output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media from said second output print device continues 5 until the amount of consumable media of said first output print device is in a first preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said second output print device;

when said first preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device, said system 10 controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said first output print device and said second output print device until said second output print device exhausts its consumable media;

upon replenishment of the consumable media of said second output print device, said system controller causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of 15 consumable media to be produced from said second output print device compared to said first output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media continues until the amount of consumable media of said second output print device is in a second preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said first output print device;

20 when said second preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said second output print device and said first output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said second output print device and said first output print device until said first output print device exhausts its consumable media;

25 upon replenishment of the consumable media of said first output print device, said system controller causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said first output print device compared to said second output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media continues until the amount of consumable media of said first 30 output print device is in said first preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said second output print device;

when said first preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device, said system

controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said first output print device and said second output print device until said second output print device exhausts its consumable media; and

 said system controller maintains continued utilization of consumable media

5 in the above alternating process.

4. A method to use a digital photographic kiosk that optimizes the output speed and the replenishment of consumable media, comprising:

 using consumable media with a first output print device;

 using consumable media with a second output print device;

10 controlling the utilization of consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device with a system controller;

 wherein said system controller initially causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said second output print device compared to said first output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media from said second output print device continues until the amount of consumable media of said first output print device is in a first preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said second output print device;

20 when said first preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said first output print device and said second output print device until said second output print device exhausts its consumable media;

25 upon replenishment of the consumable media of said second output print device, said system controller causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said second output print device compared to said first output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media continues until the amount of consumable media of said second output print device is in a second preferred ratio compared to the amount 30 of consumable media in said first output print device;

 when said second preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said second output print device and said first output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said second

output print device and said first output print device until said first output print device exhausts its consumable media;

upon replenishment of the consumable media of said first output print device, said system controller causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of

5 consumable media to be produced from said first output print device compared to said second output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media continues until the amount of consumable media of said first output print device is in said first preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said second output print device;

10 when said first preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said first output print device and said second output print device until said second output print device exhausts its consumable media; and

15 said system controller maintains continued utilization of consumable media in the above alternating process.

5. A program storage device readable by a computer that tangibly embodies a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform a method to use a digital photographic kiosk that optimizes the output speed and the replenishment
20 of consumable media, comprising:

using consumable media with a first output print device;

using consumable media with a second output print device;

controlling the utilization of consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device with a system controller;

25 wherein said system controller initially causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said second output print device compared to said first output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media from said second output print device continues until the amount of consumable media of said first output print device is in a first
30 preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said second output print device;

when said first preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device, said system

controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said first output print device and said second output print device until said second output print device exhausts its consumable media;

upon replenishment of the consumable media of said second output print device, said system controller causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said second output print device compared to said first output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media continues until the amount of consumable media of said second output print device is in a second preferred ratio compared to the amount 10 of consumable media in said first output print device;

when said second preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said second output print device and said first output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said second output print device and said first output print device until said first output print 15 device exhausts its consumable media;

upon replenishment of the consumable media of said first output print device, said system controller causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said first output print device compared to said second output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media continues until the amount of consumable media of said first output print device is in said first preferred ratio compared to the amount of 20 consumable media in said second output print device;

when said first preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device, said system 25 controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said first output print device and said second output print device until said second output print device exhausts its consumable media; and

said system controller maintains continued utilization of consumable media in the above alternating process.

30 6. A dependent claim according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 wherein said first preferred ratio occurs when the amount of consumable media of said first output print device minus the amount of consumable media of said second output print device equals half the amount of consumable media available when said first

output print device and said second output print device are both full of consumable media.

7. A dependent claim according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 wherein said second preferred ratio occurs when the amount of consumable media of said second output print device minus the amount of consumable media of said first output print device equals half the amount of consumable media available when said second output print device and said first output print device are both full of consumable media.

8. A dependent claim according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 wherein said first output print device or said second output print device further comprises a dye sublimation printer and where the consumable media further comprises dye transfer ribbons, paper, and protective overcoat laminate.

9. A dependent claim according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 wherein said first output print device or said second output print device further comprises an inkjet printer and where the consumable media further comprises inkjet print cartridges and paper.

10. A dependent claim according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 wherein said first output print device further comprises a first logical output print device and said second output print device further comprises a second logical output print device, said first logical output print device further comprises one or more physical output print devices, and said second logical output print device further comprises one or more physical output print devices.

11. An apparatus that optimizes the output speed and the replenishment of consumable media in a digital photographic kiosk, comprising:

- 25 a first output print device with consumable media;
- a second output print device with consumable media;
- a system controller that controls the utilization of consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device;
- wherein said system controller initially causes a disproportionate amount of
- 30 utilization of consumable media to be produced from said second output print device compared to said first output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media from said second output print device continues until the amount of consumable media of said first output print device is in a first

preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said second output print device, said first preferred ratio occurs when the amount of consumable media of said first output print device minus the amount of consumable media of said second output print device equals half the amount of
5 consumable media available when said first output print device and said second output print device are both full of consumable media;

when said first preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said first output print
10 device and said second output print device until said second output print device exhausts its consumable media;

upon replenishment of the consumable media of said second output print device, said system controller causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said second output print device compared
15 to said first output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media continues until the amount of consumable media of said second output print device is in a second preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said first output print device, said second preferred ratio occurs when the amount of consumable media of said second output print device
20 minus the amount of consumable media of said first output print device equals half the amount of consumable media available when said second output print device and said first output print device are both full of consumable media;

when said second preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said second output print device and said first output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said second output print device and said first output print device until said first output print device exhausts its consumable media;
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upon replenishment of the consumable media of said first output print device, said system controller causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said first output print device compared to
30 said second output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media continues until the amount of consumable media of said first

output print device is in said first preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said second output print device;

when said first preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said first output print device and said second output print device until said second output print device exhausts its consumable media; and

said system controller maintains continued utilization of consumable media in the above alternating process.

10 12. A system that optimizes the output speed and the replenishment of consumable media in a digital photographic kiosk, comprising:

a digital photographic kiosk that further comprises:

a first output print device with consumable media;

a second output print device with consumable media;

15 a system controller that controls the utilization of consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device;

wherein said system controller initially causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said second output print device compared to said first output print device, the disproportionate amount of

20 utilization of consumable media from said second output print device continues until the amount of consumable media of said first output print device is in a first preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said second output print device, said first preferred ratio occurs when the amount of consumable media of said first output print device minus the amount of

25 consumable media of said second output print device equals half the amount of consumable media available when said first output print device and said second output print device are both full of consumable media;

when said first preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said first output print device and said second output print device until said second output print device exhausts its consumable media;

upon replenishment of the consumable media of said second output print device, said system controller causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said second output print device compared to said first output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media continues until the amount of consumable media of said second output print device is in a second preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said first output print device, said second preferred ratio occurs when the amount of consumable media of said second output print device minus the amount of consumable media of said first output print device equals half the amount of consumable media available when said second output print device and said first output print device are both full of consumable media;

when said second preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said second output print device and said first output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said second output print device and said first output print device until said first output print device exhausts its consumable media;

upon replenishment of the consumable media of said first output print device, said system controller causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said first output print device compared to said second output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media continues until the amount of consumable media of said first output print device is in said first preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said second output print device;

when said first preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said first output print device and said second output print device until said second output print device exhausts its consumable media; and

said system controller maintains continued utilization of consumable media in the above alternating process.

13. A method to make a digital photographic kiosk that optimizes the output speed and the replenishment of consumable media, comprising:

providing a first output print device with consumable media;

providing a second output print device with consumable media;

providing a system controller that controls the utilization of consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device;

wherein said system controller initially causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said second output print device compared to said first output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media from said second output print device continues until the amount of consumable media of said first output print device is in a first preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said second output print device, said first preferred ratio occurs when the amount of consumable media of said first output print device minus the amount of consumable media of said second output print device equals half the amount of consumable media available when said first output print device and said second output print device are both full of consumable media;

when said first preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said first output print device and said second output print device until said second output print device exhausts its consumable media;

upon replenishment of the consumable media of said second output print device, said system controller causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said second output print device compared to said first output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media continues until the amount of consumable media of said second output print device is in a second preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said first output print device, said second preferred ratio occurs when the amount of consumable media of said second output print device minus the amount of consumable media of said first output print device equals half the amount of consumable media available when said second output print device and said first output print device are both full of consumable media;

when said second preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said second output print device and said first output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said second

output print device and said first output print device until said first output print device exhausts its consumable media;

upon replenishment of the consumable media of said first output print device, said system controller causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of

5 consumable media to be produced from said first output print device compared to said second output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media continues until the amount of consumable media of said first output print device is in said first preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said second output print device;

10 when said first preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said first output print device and said second output print device until said second output print device exhausts its consumable media; and

15 said system controller maintains continued utilization of consumable media in the above alternating process.

14. A method to use a digital photographic kiosk that optimizes the output speed and the replenishment of consumable media, comprising:

using consumable media with a first output print device;

20 using consumable media with a second output print device;

controlling the utilization of consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device with a system controller;

25 wherein said system controller initially causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said second output print device compared to said first output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media from said second output print device continues until the amount of consumable media of said first output print device is in a first preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said second output print device, said first preferred ratio occurs when the amount of

30 consumable media of said first output print device minus the amount of consumable media of said second output print device equals half the amount of consumable media available when said first output print device and said second output print device are both full of consumable media;

when said first preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said first output print device and said second output print device until said second output print device

5 exhausts its consumable media;

upon replenishment of the consumable media of said second output print device, said system controller causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said second output print device compared to said first output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media continues until the amount of consumable media of said second output print device is in a second preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said first output print device, said second preferred ratio occurs when the amount of consumable media of said second output print device minus the amount of consumable media of said first output print device equals half

10 the amount of consumable media available when said second output print device and said first output print device are both full of consumable media;

when said second preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said second output print device and said first output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said second output print device and said first output print device until said first output print device exhausts its consumable media;

upon replenishment of the consumable media of said first output print device, said system controller causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said first output print device compared to said second output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media continues until the amount of consumable media of said first output print device is in said first preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said second output print device;

when said first preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said first output print device and said second output print device until said second output print device exhausts its consumable media; and

said system controller maintains continued utilization of consumable media in the above alternating process.

15. A program storage device readable by a computer that tangibly embodies a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform a method to use a digital photographic kiosk that optimizes the output speed and the replenishment of consumable media, comprising:

using consumable media with a first output print device;

using consumable media with a second output print device;

controlling the utilization of consumable media of said first output print

10 device and said second output print device with a system controller;

wherein said system controller initially causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said second output print device compared to said first output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media from said second output print device continues

15 until the amount of consumable media of said first output print device is in a first preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said second output print device, said first preferred ratio occurs when the amount of consumable media of said first output print device minus the amount of consumable media of said second output print device equals half the amount of 20 consumable media available when said first output print device and said second output print device are both full of consumable media;

when said first preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said first output print 25 device and said second output print device until said second output print device exhausts its consumable media;

upon replenishment of the consumable media of said second output print device, said system controller causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said second output print device compared 30 to said first output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media continues until the amount of consumable media of said second output print device is in a second preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said first output print device, said second preferred ratio

occurs when the amount of consumable media of said second output print device minus the amount of consumable media of said first output print device equals half the amount of consumable media available when said second output print device and said first output print device are both full of consumable media;

5 when said second preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said second output print device and said first output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said second output print device and said first output print device until said first output print device exhausts its consumable media;

10 upon replenishment of the consumable media of said first output print device, said system controller causes a disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media to be produced from said first output print device compared to said second output print device, the disproportionate amount of utilization of consumable media continues until the amount of consumable media of said first 15 output print device is in said first preferred ratio compared to the amount of consumable media in said second output print device;

when said first preferred ratio is achieved between the consumable media of said first output print device and said second output print device, said system controller alternates utilization of consumable media between said first output print 20 device and said second output print device until said second output print device exhausts its consumable media; and

said system controller maintains continued utilization of consumable media in the above alternating process.

16. A dependent claim according to claims 11, 12, 13, 14, or 15 wherein said 25 first output print device or said second output print device further comprises a dye sublimation printer and where the consumable media further comprises dye transfer ribbons, paper, and protective overcoat laminate.

17. A dependent claim according to claims 11, 12, 13, 14, or 15 wherein said first output print device or said second output print device further comprises an 30 inkjet printer and where the consumable media further comprises inkjet print cartridges and paper.

18. A dependent claim according to claims 11, 12, 13, 14, or 15 wherein said first output print device further comprises a first logical output print device and said

second output print device further comprises a second logical output print device, said first logical output print device further comprises one or more physical output print devices, and said second logical output print device further comprises one or more physical output print devices.